

# The Times

(MORNING, EVENING AND SUNDAY.)

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Circulation Statement.

The circulation of THE TIMES for the week ended Saturday, July 17, 1897, was as follows:

Friday, July 17, 1897, 23,800

Saturday, July 18, 1897, 20,000

Sunday, July 19, 1897, 40,350

Monday, July 20, 1897, 40,471

Tuesday, July 21, 1897, 40,354

Wednesday, July 22, 1897, 40,928

Thursday, July 23, 1897, 40,502

Total, 265,297

Daily average (Sunday 23,800, excepted), 40,238

WASHINGTON, SATURDAY, JULY 24.

Before leaving Washington for the summer

subscribers for THE TIMES, The Morning

and Evening Editions will be mailed to you

for thirty-five cents a month—the Morning,

Evening and Sunday Editions for fifty. Ad-

resses changed as often as desired.

Interest centers in the Senate. The House

has been so completely suppressed that

its existence is only nominal, and nobody

cares what becomes of it. Mr. Reed is

frank enough to let his intimate friends

understand, though he does not claim that

he has told them so, that he feels like the

warden of an institution for the care of

idiots. When he does not regard his charges

in that feeble-minded light, he feels like

a suburban Philadelphia chicken fancier

who has manufactured three hundred and

odd coupons for a market that detests

chickens, but no matter for that, or for him.

The Senate is the thing that the country is

watching with bloodshot eyes and every

symptom of nausea.

By the time this edition reaches our

readers it may be that the crime of '97 will

be complete. If old Andrew Jackson were

President, if dear, old, simple American

Abraham Lincoln once more sat radiant

in the chair of state, it would not be so.

Neither of them would have a veto message

in the Congress tomorrow, and impeachment

proceedings would begin in the

House on the next day. Servants of the

people who have violated and defied the

Constitution of the United States would be

playing checkers, with their noses against

the crimson bars of cells in police stations

before they were forty-eight hours older.

Of course, nothing of the kind will be done.

We are in the vortex of an era of "sound

business methods." The political situation

is an acute one for the money and money

monopoly powers that rule the financial and

industrial world. They can afford lavishly

to enrich men who hold the com-

mission of national legislation from the

people. Are they doing it? Not by any

manor of means. Our Representatives are

so tame, upright, honest and pure to

warrant such a suspicion. At the same time,

it is a painful and even agonizing thing,

if one happens to be a patriot, to see Sena-

tors and Members acting almost as if their

pockets were bulging with the price of

Julius. Innocent of offense, as undoubtedly

they are, they are foolish creatures. They

are doing exactly what has led to

bloody revolution in the history of every

other nation since civilization was born.

not. It is an exasperating thought that

perhaps today all that stands between a

people and devoted people and their liberty

is three or four big guns. Cannot we

Americans; we who pour out our money

for Armada and India; for any place or

people, so that the object is on the other

side of the world, do something to find

those guns and get them to Mexico Gomez?

According to Spanish opinion in Havana

he will be pounding at the gates of that

city before many days. What a grand satis-

faction it would be to know that he had

simple means to take and hold it; to hang

Weyler on the lamp-post in front of his

palace, and make a bonfire of Fondovela

on the plaza!

As a result of conversation at the Cabinet

meeting yesterday, it is safe to say that

Mr. McKinley will start for Lake Cham-

plain next Wednesday. During his ab-

sence it is said that he will be represented

by Postmaster General Gary and Attorney

General McKenna. The one will salivate

the postage stamps on executive mail and

the other try to catch moonshiners. In

truth, the idea of anybody's representing

the Major in occasion for equine hilarity.

Nothing much will happen that would not

occur if he were here, and the flag of

the White House were fluttering to the

breeze as usual. The Government will

continue to run the nation "on sound

business principles" at the Glover building,

just as it has every day since the Fourth

of March. The Presidency has become a

shadow dance; the substance is Hanna!

Before the occurrence of the annual ex-

cess of the rich and great we humbly ven-

ture to suggest that the half holiday for

the Government Printing Office ought se-

riously to be considered. We know that

there are strong and reasonable objections

to the inclusion of this department in the

general scheme of summer mercy to public

servants. To a greater extent than in

most other national workshops the force

commanded by His Excellency the Public

Printer is representative of the plain peo-

ple. Now, everybody knows that persons con-

tinued with the masses do not feel the heat

as severely as other persons who are not

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## AWFUL LIGHTNING BOLTS.

Powder Magazine Demolished by the Electric Fluid.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., July 24.—A fatal ex-

plosion occurred at the Electric Fluid

magazine, and Wilkesbarre Company yester-

day. About seventy feet from the

shaft is located a powder magazine, and

during the severe thunderstorm, between

1 and 2 o'clock, a bolt of lightning struck

the magazine.

In an instant there was a terrible ex-

plosion, and John Higgins, a fireman at

the mine, was blown twenty feet in the

air. When he was picked up he was ex-

hausted, he having been killed instantly.

Higgins was in the act of hauling ashes

from the fireman with a mule when the

lightning struck the magazine. The car

was completely wrecked, and every piece

of harness blown from the animal, yet the

latter escaped injury.

When the body of Higgins was recovered

it was discovered that the force of the

explosion had blown the top of the shaft

and the explosion was most destructive

in other ways. The "shifting shanty,"

where the workmen change their clothing,

was completely demolished. Near by it

was located the boiler shop and one side of

this was crushed in and the windows all

blown out. A short distance from where

the magazine stood, on Empire street,

stands twenty-four houses of the Red Ash

Coal Company, known as the Red Row.

In the row not a pane of window glass

is left.

The saloon and residence of James

McGowan were badly damaged. The

force of the explosion was so great that

it shook the foundation of nearly every

dwellings in Wilkesbarre. The people thought

a great earthquake had occurred. There

were about twenty tons of powder in the

magazine.

Lightning exploded a magazine near

Mineville yesterday. About noon a bolt

of lightning struck Leisenring's powder

house. The lightning passed through the

roof, igniting the powder. There was

about a ton of black giant powder stored

in the building at the time. Not a vestige

of the building remained and a big hole in

the earth alone marks the spot where it

stood.

## A GREAT RIFLE.

Marvelous Accuracy of the Lee-Met-

ford Magazine Weapon.

London, July 24.—The annual fortnight

meeting of the National Rifle Association

at Bexley, which closes today, has been

remarkable in demonstrating the wonderful

accuracy of the Lee-Metford magazine rifle

and its immense superiority in this respect

over any weapon similarly tested hitherto.

This is the first year that the Lee-Metford

rifle has been used in the trials, replacing

the Martini rifle. Of the thousands of vol-

unteers, regulars and colonial troops tak-

ing part in the various competitions, hun-

dreds have broken all records. It is no

exaggeration to say that bullet-holes have

become tediously monotonous.

In several competitions twenty or more

men shooting at the 500 and 600 yards

ranges made the highest possible scores.

In the final shooting the tie was quite

close, owing to the competitors repeating

the feat. But for accidents of wind

and light it would have been impossible

to have decided who were the winners of

some of the prizes. In these same events

dozens of the marksmen were within one

or two points of the highest scores made.

An instance of excellent scoring was seen

in the competition for the Queen's prize,

the chief event of the meeting, which is di-

vided into three stages, carrying besides the

money prizes, the association's bronze,

silver and gold medals, the bronze medal

going to the winner of the first stage, the

silver medal to the winner of the second,

and the gold medal to the winner of the

third stage. The winner of the silver